

# TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN ULLRICH

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor Mary Ann Ullrich, manager of the Office of Congressional Publishing at the Government Publishing Office, GPO. On December 31, 2022, Mary will retire from the GPO after more than 37 years of public service. Mary's career—which is truly an American dream as she will tell you herself—started after she graduated from high school with excellent typing skills and a strong work ethic. She started in 1980 in the personnel office of what was then known as the Government Printing Office as a clerk typist. She is now retiring from GPO as the second shift manager in congressional publishing.

Mary is a New York City native, who grew up in the Bronx before relocating to Maryland. After she started working at GPO, she quickly moved up through the ranks through printing procurement, customer service, and quality assurance, where she reviewed printing for quality defects and was commended for discovering a loophole in the QATAP Program that contractors must adhere to as a procurement requirement, potentially saving taxpayer dollars. Mary then worked for the superintendent of documents designing marketing materials and the postscript service section processing electronic prepress files and posting government documents online. Mary received a prestigious Hammer Award for her work on GPOAccess during the Clinton administration “for helping to create a government that works better and costs less.” She posted publications online such as the daily CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the Starr Report, and many assorted congressional and Federal Government publications.

Mary then went to typography and design where she typeset many different products, including Ronald Reagan's lying in state card and program when he was interred in the Capitol. She received a plaque from Mrs. Reagan for her efforts. She also typeset and produced the White House programs for Presidential events during the Clinton and Bush administrations, Colin Powell's “Joint Force Quarterly (JFQ) Magazine,” and other government publications such as the “Senate Catalogue of Fine Art” and “Glenn Brown's History of the Capitol”—both fine art books for the Senate Curator's office and the Architect of the Capitol's office respectively.

Mary was working with the White House public affairs staff on a White House program the morning of September 11, 2001, when news of the terrorist attack on our country was broadcast. She proudly worked almost 32 hours straight to produce the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony Program to ensure that all was ready for the 10 a.m. memorial service at Washington National Cathedral. For her dedication to excellence, then-First Lady Laura Bush sent a personally signed thank you to Mary.

On October 1, 2006, Mary moved up to congressional publishing, where she

worked directly with congressional staff to procure the publications of Congress. She handled the procurement and press sheet inspection of the Glenn Brown Book that she had typeset in T&D, finishing the production cycle full-circle. Mary also worked with the Senate Curators to produce the “Senate Catalogue of Graphic Art” and the reprint of “Constantino Brumidi, Artist of the Capitol” fine art book—all high-quality printed books—as well as large projects such as the House's new Members orientation products. Mary then went to second shift on October 21, 2012, working with the House and Senate Official Reporters on the daily CONGRESSIONAL RECORD printing and online services; the Senate and House Bill Clerks and Enrolling Clerks on producing bills and legislation; and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees' omnibus bills and other materials, to name just a few of her responsibilities.

I often say that our nonpartisan career civil service is one of our Nation's most important and least appreciated assets. It consists of hundreds of thousands of people like Mary Ullrich, mostly anonymous, who serve their fellow Americans with pride and distinction. If you ask Mary, she will tell you how proud she is to be a career civil servant and how fortunate she has felt to work at the GPO. Mary has looked up at the Capitol Dome every day from the front door of GPO, brimming with pride for the part she has played in “Keeping America Informed” about Congress and the legislative process. I want to congratulate Mary Ann Ullrich of the GPO on her well-earned retirement after over 37 years of loyal Federal service.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### RECOGNIZING MAINE'S TAXPAYER ADVOCATE SERVICE

• Mr. KING. Madam President, today, I want to acknowledge and honor the work of Maine's Taxpayer Advocate Service office in Augusta. The Taxpayer Advocate Service is an independent office of the Internal Revenue Service that is dedicated to ensuring that every taxpayer is treated fairly. While the Taxpayer Advocate Service does focus in part on making critically important observations and recommendations regarding the taxpayer experience in their annual report to Congress, I want to focus my remarks on the individual assistance they provide to taxpayers—helping Maine people resolve problems that they have not been able to resolve on their own with the IRS.

The Augusta staff is a tightly knit group of dedicated public servants whose contributions to the lives of individuals across Maine far outweigh their size. My staff works with them almost daily to help constituents work through IRS issues that can often be

very stressful for individuals, couples, families, businesses, and organizations. This kind of work makes a huge impact, and the professionals who work in our Maine office are among the best at what they do. They continuously put their expertise to work for us and do not rest on a case until every “i” is dotted and every “t” is crossed.

TAS's Augusta office stands out to us as an example of excellence in congressional casework. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented workload and unique problems associated with the pandemic challenged the Federal workforce in a brand-new way. This group rose to that challenge with attention to every case even when we knew they were simply overwhelmed with the sheer volume of inquiries. Their dedication to TAS's mission has shined more brightly than ever since the spring of 2020.

Constituent service work is noble and impactful. My office relies heavily on dozens of Federal office staff to assist in bringing meaningful results to the people of Maine. The Maine Taxpayer Advocate's office has stood out by consistently rising to each challenge with compassion and professionalism. The Maine office of the Taxpayer Advocate Service and its staff exemplifies public service at its best. Myself, my staff, and all those in Maine who work with the office benefits greatly from the interaction. The work immeasurably improves the lives of people facing IRS issues that are often dramatic and daunting. Further, we consider them an integral part of our ability to resolve problems, and I thank them for their hard work, their caring nature, and their exceptional dedication to excellence.●

### TRIBUTE TO KATE BROWN

• Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, today I would like to pay tribute to my State of Oregon's outgoing Governor, Kate Brown, who has not only led the Beaver State for the last 8 years but has devoted much of her life to public service.

Governor Brown got her start in Oregon politics when she was appointed to fill a seat in the Oregon House in 1991, which she would continue to serve in for a total of three terms before going on to serve another three terms in the State senate. Recognized for her leadership, she was elected by her peers to serve as majority leader in 2003 and would go on to serve in that position until leaving the senate in 2009. Her 6 years as majority leader were marked with an impressive list of major accomplishments and bills passed. And I was fortunate, during a portion of that time—between 2007 and 2009, to be exact—to work alongside her as speaker of the Oregon House and push through a number of those bills that have had such a positive impact on the